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in his life and writings few vestiges of creative talent, vivid fancy, or self-forgetting enthusiasm; but we find what is far better, sound practical wisdom, intense industry, unswerving loyalty to his God, his faith, and his calling, and the capacity of swaying and moulding the wills and the activities of those under his charge, tuition, or influence. As a pastor, he raised a feeble and lukewarm congregation to outward prosperity and spiritual strength, refusing advantageous situations elsewhere because his people still needed him, enduring straitnesses and privations rather than leave his flock to be scattered, all the while retaining his scholarly tastes and habits, and drawing his congregation up to himself, instead of sinking to the lower plane on which they would have been content to remain with him. As the presiding officer of the University, he placed the institution on a firmer financial basis, conciliated to it the impaired confidence of the community, and in various ways contributed largely to its honor and usefulness; while his formal instructions and his private counsels were treasured as golden words, and are still remembered with tender and reverent gratitude. His sermons are earnest, weighty, strongly guarded, ably reasoned expositions of the doctrines of the Gospel, with profoundly solemn appeals to the consciences of his hearers. Professor Torrey's Memoir is a beautiful and worthy tribute to a rich character and a noble life.

26. — *The Ordeal of Free Labor in the British West Indies.* By WM. G. SEWELL. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1861. 12mo. pp. 325.

THIS is, as it seems to us, a work of very great value. It gives the result of personal examination, and puts on record specific facts and statistical details. The author is trammelled in his observations neither by preconceived theories nor by the desire of generalizing his results. He, in fact, declines presenting general conclusions, on the ground that each island had its own history, its peculiarities of position, soil, and adaptation, its commercial facilities or hinderances, its numerical proportions and social relations between the dominant and the enslaved races, and that there is not one of the particulars comprehended under these heads that has not modified the effects of emancipation. He accordingly makes his statement of the condition of things in each island separately. It is very certain that in all the islands the ruin of large sugar-plantations has followed close upon the enfranchisement of their cultivators. And this ought to have been the case; for the owners of those estates were generally absentees, who expected to meet from the proceeds of

the sugar-crops the expense of oversight, the dilapidation from the absence of the owner's care, and the cost of a luxurious mode of life for themselves and their families. But this could be effected only by the over-working and under-feeding of their operatives to the last degree. Moreover, almost all these large estates were mortgaged, and were under constantly increasing embarrassments, so that their ruin, or that of their owners, was not caused, but only hastened, by emancipation. On the other hand, it is certain that the freed men of these islands have in great numbers become proprietors and cultivators on their own account, that a larger variety of agricultural products is raised than formerly, that there is an enhanced standard of comfort, intelligence, and morality, and that resident and provident white proprietors are able to derive as large a proportional revenue from their estates as accrues in any part of the world from agriculture under free labor. Still further, as regards the great staple, there has been an increased production on all the larger islands, Jamaica alone excepted. The average annual quantity of sugar exported from Trinidad, Barbados, and Antigua, for the four years preceding emancipation, was 89,300,000 pounds; the average from 1856 to 1860 was 154,400,000. Before emancipation the annual imports of these three islands — which with no great change of population may be assumed as a fair index of expenditure for comfort and luxury — averaged \$5,140,000; while their imports in 1859 amounted to \$8,940,000. The causes of stagnation and decline in Jamaica are such as would have developed themselves had slavery continued.

27. — *Trumps. A Novel.* By GEO. WM. CURTIS, Author of "Nile Notes of a Howadji," "The Howadji in Syria," "The Potiphar Papers," "Prue and I," etc. Splendidly illustrated by Augustus Hoppin. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1861. 12mo. pp. 502.

WE have been told that some of the characters in this novel represent, and to a certain degree caricature persons, living or dead, to whom or to whose memory the author owed respectful silence at least, if not profound reverence. So far as this is true, we have not a word of apology for the book. But, aside from this objection, it seems to us the best of Mr. Curtis's works, and among the very best of American novels. The good characters are eminently lifelike, and are sketched with a hand of equal delicacy and power. The weak, vain, and wicked personages are made much more grotesque than in actual life, and yet not so grotesque as we have been accustomed to see similar personages in Dickens's novels. The plot is ingenious, the *dénouement* is well managed, and the conclusion fully satisfies the sympathies and wishes of the reader.